



Toastmasters International District 21 Council Meeting Minutes

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Online via ZOOM

Time: 2:00 to 5:11pm

- I. **Call to Order:** District 21 Director Louisa Davis, DTM, PID called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. PDT.
- II. **Territorial Acknowledgement:** Administration Manager, Sherry Ernst, DTM gave the territorial acknowledgment for District 21 covering the province of B.C. and the Yukon territory. "As we gather today online we are reminded that our clubs and members span the province of B.C. and the Yukon territory. We are grateful to live, work, create and gather on the traditional, ancestral and living territories of over 200 indigenous communities.
- III. **Welcome and Introductory Remarks:** Louisa Davis, DTM, PID noted the Timers, Zoom Masters, and Election ballot counters for this meeting and welcomed all dignitaries (including current and past International Directors, Region Advisors and District Directors) and participants.
- IV. **Remembrances:** Club Growth Director, Mark Hurrell, DTM led a moment of silence to remember our members who have passed away since our last meeting.
- V. **District Mission:** Program Quality Director Melody Helleouet, reviewed the District Mission: "We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence." She reminded everyone to reflect on this during your own journey, as a mentor or club coach, and while serving in leadership roles.
- VI. **District Vision:** Lydia Burchell, DTM, PDD shared the current District Vision: One Vision. Shared Success and invited everyone to join the "Storm the Stage" team initiative of becoming a Distinguished District leading up to the 2026 Vancouver Convention in August.
- VII. **Credentials Committee Report:** Credentials Committee Chair, Darryl Farquhar, DTM confirmed that 184 club votes are registered for the meeting. Quorum has been met and the meeting can continue as planned. Results of the credentials report are as follows:

Credentials Report	
Clubs Eligible to vote (in good standing)	154/190
Eligible Votes (2 per club, PRE & VPE)	308
Quorum of clubs ($\frac{1}{3}$ of clubs)	52
Quorum of votes required (2 per club)	104
Total Registered Clubs	95
Total Registered Club Votes	184
Quorum Status	Quorum Met!
Registered District Exec Votes	33
Total Registered <u>Votes</u>	217

VIII. District Officer Appointment for 2025-2026. Since the September 2025 business council meeting, the following Interim Area Directors were appointed:

Claudette Yeomans - B14
Ahmed Hussain - D31
Francesca Hansen - F50
Chari Ginete-Ilon - G62

IX. Standing Rules: District Parliamentarian, Rick Sydor, DTM PID R-PRP outlined the parliamentary rules to follow for this business meeting and they were adopted.

X. Adoption of Agenda: The Chair presented the Agenda as distributed prior to the meeting and it was adopted.

<u>Agenda</u>	
1. Call to Order	18. Public Relations Manager Report - Lydia Burchell, DTM
2. Territorial Acknowledgement – Sherry Ernst, DTM	19. Club Growth Director Report - Mark Hurrell, DTM
3. Welcome and Introductory Remarks – Louisa Davis, DTM, PID	20. Program Quality Director Report - Melody Helleouet
4. Remembrances – Mark Hurrell, DTM	21. District Director Report - Louisa Davis, DTM, PID
5. The District Mission– Melody Helleouet	22. Division Director Reports
6. The District Vision – Lydia Burchell, DTM	• Division J Report - Richard Anderson
7. Credentials Committee Report – Darryl Farquhar	• Division H Report - Hardip Viridi, DTM
8. District Officer Appointments for 2025-2026 – Louisa Davis, DTM	• Division G Report - Susan Gage
9. Meeting Standing Rules - Rick Sydor, DTM	• Division F Report - Janet Cho, DTM
10. Adoption of Agenda	• Division E Report - Vincent Li, DTM
11. Approval of Previous District Council Minutes	• Division D Report - Clinton Kam, DTM
12. Audit Committee Report – Blair Montgomery, DTM	• Division C Report - Tom Leson, DTM
13. Profit and Loss Statement – David Nguyen	• Division B Report - Frank Tanguay
14. Approval of 2026-2027 Alignment Committee Report - Phyllis Nielsen, DTM	• Division A Report - Tim Thakker
15. District Leadership Committee Report - Virginia Keast, DTM	23. Unfinished Business
16. Election of District Leaders for 2026-2027	24. New Business
17. Area Council election results for 2026-2027	25. Announcements
	26. Adjourn

XI. Approval of Previous District Council Meeting Minutes: The minutes of the previous District Council meeting on September, 20, 2025, were posted on the D21 website prior to this meeting for review. As there were no amendments or corrections proposed, the minutes were adopted.

XII. Mid-Year Audit Committee Report:

Audit Committee Member, Blair Montgomery, DTM presented the Mid-year Audit Committee report for District 21. The Audit report was submitted to and certified by Toastmasters International prior to this meeting.

D21 December 31, 2025: Mid-Year Audit Committee Report

Monthly Net Income/(Loss)	\$ (16,425.77)
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 20,719.98
Total Available Funds	\$137,438.50

All reimbursements for expense requests have been approved by the District Director with adequate documentation.

There were no questions on the D21 Audit Report, and the report was accepted as presented.

XIII. District Profit & Loss Statement: District Finance Manager David Nguyen presented the current budget profit and loss statement as of December 31, 2025.

	07/01/2025 Through 12/31/2025		
	Actual	Budget	Variance
District Revenue			
Membership Revenue	67,314.76	66,607.23	707.53
Oct/Nov Event Revenue	2,420.00	1,500.00	920.00
Other Revenue	122.97	0.00	122.97
Total District Revenue	69,857.73	68,107.23	1,750.50
District Expenses			
Conference Expenses	(199.94)	0.00	(199.94)
Oct/Nov Event Expenses	6,990.21	1,500.00	5,490.21
Recognition	9,493.04	9,902.00	(408.96)
Club Growth	131.07	9,080.00	(8,948.93)
Marketing Outside of Toastmasters Expenses	5,922.92	6,780.00	(857.08)
Public Relations Expense	181.62	1,706.00	(1,524.38)
Education & Training Expense	1,926.24	3,485.00	(1,558.76)
Speech Contest Expenses	29.80	0.00	29.80
Administration Expenses	3,517.58	3,385.00	132.58
Food and Meals Expense	5,522.76	9,848.00	(4,325.24)
Travel Expense	7,098.72	11,002.36	(3,903.64)
Lodging Expense	4,785.40	4,500.00	285.40
Other Expenses	197.55	0.00	197.55
Allocation Expenses	3,540.78	3,479.70	61.08
Total District Expenses	49,137.75	64,668.06	(15,530.31)
Total Net Income	20,719.98	3,439.17	17,280.81

Highlights of the Report:

- The District has a surplus of \$17, 280.
- Oct/Nov Event expenses were higher than budgeted due to rental space.
- Many of the budgeted activities for recognition, club growth, marketing, public relations, education & training are currently under budget as they are planned for later in the year.
- Food and Meals and Travel Expenses are under budget due to careful management.
- Reimbursements for District Bucks earned have yet to be claimed by clubs.

XIV. District Alignment Committee Report: District Alignment Committee Chair Phyllis Nielsen, DTM, PDD presented the District Alignment Report for the 2026-2027 year on behalf of the District Alignment Committee members.

Highlights of the Report:

- Two Area closures: D30 and H70
- Area D33 converted to an Online Area
- 38 clubs have been moved to a new Area.
- 14 clubs have been moved to another Division.

A full report of all the clubs in the District and the proposed new alignment was made available. The report was adopted.

- XV. District Leadership Committee Report.** District Leadership Committee Chair, Virginia Keast, DTM, IPDD presented the District Leadership Committee nominations on behalf of the District Leadership Committee.

The Committee interviewed all nominated candidates. Only one candidate was nominated for the position of Club Growth Director, and 2 Division Directors remain open. All candidates and floor candidates met the requirements for the office positions they are running for. Voting to confirm leaders took place during this meeting (see below).

- XVI. Election of the District Leaders for 2026-2027.** The Chair reviewed the process for casting votes for contested and uncontested positions. In the case of uncontested positions, a single vote was cast by the Administration Manager. For contested positions, candidates were given two minutes to speak, votes were cast by the voting members in attendance and results presented.

The following District Leaders were elected for 2026-2027:

District Director - Melody Helleouet

Program Quality Director - Mark Hurrell, DTM

Club Growth Director - Ahmed Hussain

Division A Director - Maria Popova

Division B Director - Claudette Yeomans

Division C Director - Nick Zarei

Division D Director - Ray Au

Division E Director - Ali Mokhtarian, DTM

Division F Director - Sephora Pierre-Louis, DTM

Division G Director - Ajibike Ige

Division H Director - Torsten Lenk

Division J Director - Lisa Lieu

- XVII. Area Council Election Results for 2026-2027.** The following Area Directors have been elected by their Area Councils:

Mariama Barrie for Area C20

Shivain Maini for Area C21

Matthew Corlett for Area C22

James Cooper for Area E41

Manojanth Kannadasan for Area E43

Varsha Bhat for Area E44

Chari Ginete-Ilon for Area G62

Sola Fagbamiye for Area G64

Sarah Brown for Area H71

Kelly Arendt for Area H72

Monica Watson for Area H73

Arjun Sumal for Area H74

- XVIII. Public Relations Managers Report.** Lydia Burchell, DTM, PDD shared results of the VP Public Relations team, monthly townhall events, and Whatsapp group for club officers. Outside marketing this year included media events, bus shelter ads, bumper stickers and car magnets. These innovative initiatives are being celebrated and copied around the world in other Districts.
- XIX. Club Growth Director Report.** Mark Hurrell, DTM shared club building initiatives such as the regional in-person sales blitz, online demo meeting resources, travelling toastmasters, and townhall events for VP Membership club officers. Four club leads have completed the first step to Charter. There are 19 active club coaches. 1,153 new members have joined the District to date, which makes the District #1 in Region 1.
- XX. Program Quality Director Report.** Melody Helleouet shared results of the Division speech contests, club officer training sessions, and other program quality initiatives such as:
- Annual Conference being held April 17-18, 2025 at the Executive Hotel in Richmond.
 - Emerging Leaders Scholarship Awards - honouring 42 exceptional members who have joined within the past two years and reached Level 3 (or higher) with scholarship awards funded by a generous contribution from the Advanced Speakers Club (ASK).
 - Distinguished Club Program - 35 clubs have reached Distinguished status to date and many more close to reaching this status. New requirements are being rolled out for the for Distinguished, Select Distinguished, President's Distinguished and Smedley Distinguished scorecard.
 - She also noted that the Vintage Paths, Basic Training and Entertaining Speaker/Storytelling, are available starting April 14.
- XXI. District Director Report.** Louisa Davis, DTM, PID reviewed the current District Dashboard and how the scorecard is measured for each club. Clubs were reminded to submit their new club officer lists for next year. She thanked everyone for their contributions for making the District successful this year.

Paid Clubs		Payments		Distinguished Clubs	
Base	To Date	Base	To Date	Base	To Date
191	153	7,125	5,904	191	35
Goals		Goals		Goals	
Distinguished		Distinguished		Distinguished	
193		7,197		86	
Select Distinguished		Select Distinguished		Select Distinguished	
197		7,339		96	
President's Distinguished		President's Distinguished		President's Distinguished	
201		7,482		106	
Smedley Distinguished		Smedley Distinguished		Smedley Distinguished	
207		7,696		115	

XXII. Division Director Reports.

Division J. Division Director Richard Anderson reported on Division J results and thanked the Area Directors. Highlights include:

- 52% of Club Officers trained
- 96% of clubs have renewed
- 2 potential new clubs, a wine club and a Kelowna speechcraft
- Area Directors are focused on engagement gaps and volunteer fatigue.
- One major win: all division members offered an opportunity to compete in contests
- By June 30: our division will rebuild membership.

Division H. Division Director Hardip Viridi reported on Division H results and thanked the Area Directors. Highlights include:

- 91% of clubs achieved 4+ officers trained
- 95% of active clubs have renewed
- Actively building 3 new clubs, Alexandra college, Agassiz club & IEM
- Areas J70 and H74 are Distinguished
- Two clubs - Money Matters, Fraser Heights have been recovered
- 100% of club officer reports are completed
- Losing 2 clubs, Langley Morning Toastmasters and Envision Enunciators
- By June 30: Our division will be distinguished if we open 2 more clubs.

Division G. Division Director Susan Gage reported on the results of Division G and thanked the Area Directors. Highlights include:

- 56% of club officers trained
- 52% of clubs have renewed for April-September.
- Bringing new Area Directors on board
- By June 30: our division will host Open Houses to invite and grow our Clubs and Areas into a superior Division.

Division F. Area Director Sneha Attili reported on the results for Division F on behalf of Division Director Janet Cho, DTM. Highlights include:

- 54% clubs achieved 4+ Club Officers Trained.

- 77% of Clubs have renewed for April-September 2026 to-date
- We have lost two clubs: Vancouver DESIS and Talktioneers.
- Area Directors are focused on getting club visits completed.
- Major wins: Parakeets has added 4 new members!
- Areas 50 and 54 have completed club visits.
- By June 30: we need 5 more paid clubs to be Distinguished.

Division E. Division E Director Vincent Li, DTM reported on the results for Division E and thanked the Area Directors for a successful Division. Highlights include:

- 75% of Clubs with Officers Trained meeting COT goal achieved
- 5 clubs having 7/7 officers trained in 2nd round
- 3 clubs having 7/7 officers trained in both COT sessions!
- 95% of Clubs have renewed for April-September 2026 to-date
- Area Directors are focused on supporting clubs to reach distinguished or better;
- setting up struggling clubs for success for the next term
- Major wins: Sundogs getting in person help, WSP has new club coach (Ron Lee)
- 6 Clubs are already Distinguished or better!
- All Areas on track to be Distinguished!
- By June 30: our division will be Distinguished if we can pull one new club together!

Division D. Area Director Ahmed Hussain reported on the Division D results and recognized all the Area Directors on behalf of Division Director Clinton Kam. Highlights include:

- 49% of Club Officer Training minimum achieved
- 45% of Clubs have renewed for April-September 2026 to-date
- We are building 2 new clubs: A Lawyers group, PMI Toastmasters
- Area Directors are focused on getting their Club Visit Reports done
- One major win: 2 clubs are excelling
- By June 30: our division will need 2-4 clubs to be Distinguished.

Division C. Division Director Tom Leson reported on the results for Division C and thanked the Area Directors. Highlights include:

- COT: 9/18 of clubs have minimum achieved
- Renewals: 15/18 of Clubs have renewed to September 2026 to-date
- New Clubs: No plans to build any new clubs
- Area Directors are focused on club renewals to bring several club back
- One major win: Howe Sound trained approximately 80 club officers
- By June 30: our division will survive

Division B. Division Director Frank Tanguay reported on the results for Division B and thanked the Area Directors. Highlights include:

- 70% of Club Officer Training minimum achieved
- 94% of Clubs have renewed for April-September 2026 to-date
- We are working towards building 3 new clubs: Ucluelet, Port Alberni, Cowichan Tribes
- 35% clubs are already Distinguished and 35% more will reach Distinguished
- Area Directors are focused on increasing Club Memberships, and renewals.
- One major win: Area and Division Contests went very well
- By June 30: our division will be in a stronger position by healthy strong clubs, and continue to work on promoting the Pathways Program.

Division A. Division Director Tim Thakker reported on Division A results and thanked the Area Directors. Highlights include:

- 70.6% of Club Officer Training minimum achieved
- 83% of Clubs have renewed for April-September 2026
- We are building 4 new clubs: Tiger Teams is active with one club, Advanced Solutions already signed
- Area Directors are focused on building new clubs!
- Major wins: all club visits are done, contests are done, seymour synergy completed 7/7 club officers trained in both rounds and 5 educational goals, Rise & Shine added 10 new members
- By June 30: our division will... have several new clubs.

XXIII. Unfinished Business.

- **Royal Challenge Guest Event Challenge Winners.** Paige Adair announced the results of the February Open House Guest Challenge.

Division A: BC Public Service Virtual Communicators
Division B: Island Excellence Toastmasters
Division C: Sea to Sky Toastmasters
Division D: Electrify your Speeches Toastmasters
Division E: Earth Aware Toastmasters
Division F: Telespeakers
Division G: Unicorn Tribe Toastmasters
Division H: Knights of Abbotsford Toastmasters
Division J: Be Amazing

XXIV. New Business. No new business.

XXV. Announcements:

- **District 21 Annual Conference.** Conference Co-Chair Sneha Attili reminded everyone of the spring conference starting in 4 days. Registration is still open, including an online option.
- **Toastmasters International Annual Convention.** Conference Co-Chairs Carole Murphy, DTM, PDD and Tom Jones, DTM, PID encouraged all members to join the International Conference this year
 - Being held in Vancouver August 19-22, 2026.
 - Registration is now open
 - Helping Hands volunteers receive 40% off the registration fee

XXVI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:11 p.m.